

16 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: TEMIG Program

1. In the belief that you might welcome some good news, I am forwarding the attached cable from Vientiane on current developments in the TEMIG program. As you may recall (and as I mentioned at one Morning Meeting recently), TEMIG units are small boxes designed to enable ground troops to bring in airborne fire support to very close ranges with safety. The ground operator manipulates the dials on the unit to give azimuth and estimated range of the enemy. The unit then automatically transmits this data to an appropriately equipped gunship (including some C-130's with virtual artillery aboard) where a matching computer automatically adjusts for the offset between the aircraft and the ground position and aims the aircraft's ordnance directly on the enemy target designated by the ground user.

2. This hardware was developed by the Air Force with some advice and assistance from ourselves and DDS&T, with Duckett playing a quite critical role on a few occasions through his personal contacts with the military R&D fraternity. We helped get the Air Force team out to the field for the pilot project currently being run in Udorn with the selfish motive of inducing the Air Force to "frag" gunship sorties on the basis of friendly ground forces' use of TEMIG equipment in Laos. The Air Force was initially skeptical and quite reluctant to go along. We let their own officers sell our 7th Air Force colleagues on the basis of proven field test results. As you can see, at least General Evans at 7/13th headquarters in Udorn has become a believer.

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3. At some point we may have to weigh in at the JCS level to give our field colleagues an additional hand, but on this I am going to bide my time until our intervention becomes essential. I would much prefer for the initiative to rise up the chain through 7th Air Force, PACAF and the Air Staff in Air Force channels. That way we keep a lower profile and, further, our military colleagues will cooperate much more effectively on a program where they have sold themselves without our hand being obtrusively evident.

[Redacted]

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George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

[Redacted]

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1 [Redacted] (Orig fr DCI)
1 - GAC Chrono

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1. FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN ON TEMIG EQUIPMENT PROGRAM FOR BACKG
GROUND PURPOSES: TEMIG READOUT EQUIPMENT IS NOW INSTALLED IN FIVE
AC-130 GUNSHIPS AT UBON. SIX TEMIG UNITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH ONE
UNIT IN THE FIELD AT PAKSE AND FOUR IN THE FIELD AT LONG TIENG.
SAVANNAKHET HAS NOT YET DEPLOYED ITS UNIT. THE FIRST TEST WAS CON-
DUCTED ON 4 APR 71 NORTH OF LONG TIENG WITH OUTSTANDING RESULTS. FAG
SHAMROCK AT TG 888 301 CONTROLLED AND INITIAL FIRINGS WERE MADE AT A
DISTANCE OF 1000 METERS FROM HIS POSITION ON ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRA-
TIONS. AS BOTH FAG AND GUN CREW GAINED CONFIDENCE, THE FIRE WAS
BROUGHT CLOSER UNTIL SHAMROCK WAS ASKING THAT THE CREW HIT WITHIN THE
140 METER SAFETY ZONE CALLED FOR BY THE ORDNANCE IN USE. THE FAG
REPORTED THAT THE FIRINGS WERE VERY ACCURATE AND THE GUN CREWS WERE
ALSO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE ACCURACY AND POSITIVE CONTROL CAPABILITIES:

2. [] AND UBON SPECTOR WING REPS MET IN UBON ON 9 APRIL
AND WORKED OUT A SYSTEM FOR REQUESTING AND UTILIZING AC-130 GUNSHIPS
WITH TEMIG CAPABILITY /SEE UDORN 17052/. A SECOND MEETING WAS HELD
ON 14 APRIL IN UDORN. GEN EVANS REVEALED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

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FAVOR OF AC-130 GUNSHIPS FOR BARREL ROLL IN CONJUNCTION WITH TEMIG, HE WAS UNABLE TO GET 7TH AF TO AGREE TO DEDICATE AN AC-130 TO BARREL ROLL.

3. AS HQS CAN SEE, TEST RESULTS HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING. 7/13TH GEN EVANS EXTREMELY ENTHUSIASTIC USING THIS WEAPONS SYSTEM IN MR-II. IN 14 APRIL MESSAGE 7/13TH FORWARDED TEST RESULTS TO 7TH AF SAIGON AND IN LAST PARAGRAPH REQUESTED THAT AC-130 GUNSHIP BE FRAGGED TO BARREL ROLL ONLY IN CASE OF EXTREME EMERGENCY. APPARENTLY 7TH AF IS RELUCTANT DIVERT ITS AC-130'S FROM WHAT THEY CONSIDER MORE LUCRATIVE TRUCK KILL MISSIONS IN PANHANDLE TO SUPPORT COMBAT SITUATION IN MR-II

4. EVENING 15 APRIL USING SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE REFLECTING POSSIBLE HEAVY ENEMY ATTACK HILL 1663 GEN EVANS WAS ASKED TO DIVERT AC-130 FOR USE WITH TEMIG UNITS IN MR-II SPECIFICALLY WITH REGULAR TROOPS AT HILL 1663. EVANS RESPONSE WAS IMMEDIATE AND HE INDICATED THAT THIS WAS EMERGENCY TYPE SITUATION OF WHICH HE TALKING. FORTUITOUSLY, ENEMY DID NOT ATTACK SINCE TEMIG EQUIPPED AC-130 PROVED UNABLE COMMUNICATE WITH ANY GROUND TEMIG UNIT. THIS OBVIOUSLY GOOD TE

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AND SHAKE DOWN AND POINTED UP NECESSITY MAKE SURE BOTH AIRBORNE AND GROUND EQUIPMENT OPERATIVE. FAULT APPEARED TO BE IN AIRBORNE EQUIPMENT AND THIS CURRENTLY BEING CORRECTED.

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5. WE ARE PROVIDING YOU THE ABOVE BACKGROUND IN DETAIL IN EVENT WE FIND IT NECESSARY TO ASK FOR HQS INTERVENTION. SENIOR LEVELS [REDACTED] INSURE THIS EXCELLENT WEAPONS SYSTEM AVAILABLE ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS DURING FORTHCOMING CRITICAL WEEKS AND POSSIBLY MONTHS. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING AT THIS TIME THAT ANY DEMARCHE BE MADE AND WOULD HOPE THAT GEN EVANS WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND AS RAPIDLY AS HE DID LAST EVENING. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT 7TH AF WILL BE MOST RELUCTANT TO FREQUENT ALLOCATION TEMIG EQUIPPED AC-130 GUNSHIP TO BARREL ROLL ON WHAT MAY BE TANTAMOUNT TO DEDICATED BASIS. SHOULD SITUATION DEVELOP DURING THESE CRITICAL NEXT WEEKS, WE WOULD HOPE HQS COULD USE ABOVE AS BACKGROUND FOR EFFECTIVE DEMARCHE. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED. GP-1.

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